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May 15, 2021

Annual Meeting Registration Deadline: June 1, 2021

Register now to attend the Conference Annual Meeting as a delegate or as a visitor! Lots of exciting things happening and you will want to be there!

1. Registrants will receive a special gift in the mail.
2. Workshop descriptions are now on the website. Closer to the Annual Meeting, registrants will be sent information about signing up for the workshops which will be attended through Zoom.
3. Agenda, business items, reports, recognitions, how to use zoom are all on the website. Some items are still being added.

Healing Forward

Please note the May 20 deadlines (more details):

- To participate in the Opening Worship by sending in a video with someone(s) from your church saying "We praise you, Re-creating God."
- For sending pictures or video clips of your church involved in mission and outreach during the pandemic (to be shown during the Opening Worship).
- To have your church highlighted during Annual Meeting: advertising an event, celebrating your anniversary, etc.

Meet and Greet the Candidate

Everyone is invited to attend one of the four Zoom opportunities to meet and greet the Rev. Kimberly Wood, candidate for the position of Conference Minister.

The vote to elect her will be at the Annual Meeting Business Session on June 19. See more information about Rev. Wood on our website.

- May 25 at 7 pm EDT/6 pm CDT - Register
- June 3 at 7 pm EDT/6 pm CDT - Register
- June 7 at 4 pm EDT/3 pm CDT - Register
- June 8 at 11 am EDT/10 CDT – Register

View an introductory video from Rev. Kim Wood

News from the Conference Office

From the Generosity Coordinator

The Certificates for 2020 giving to Our Church's Wider Mission and "5 for 5" Support for additional UCC Special Offerings have been mailed to churches. Thank you for your investment in the life of the Conference! If you would like a personal video "thank you" to be pre-recorded for your worship service or if you would like a live "thank you" via zoom during a virtual worship service, please contact either Rev. Char Burch (cburch@secucc.org) or Min. Carrole Moss (cmoss@secucc.org). Again, thank you for being part of the Southeast Conference!

Blessings,
Min. Carrole

Join us for this special presentation. Register Online Here.

Ordination of Haley Lerner

- **Sunday, May 16, 5 pm Eastern**

You are invited to the ordination of Haley Lerner on May 16, 2021 at Kirkwood United Church of Christ in Atlanta. Haley's ordination will be part of Kirkwood UCC's 5 pm worship service which will be an outdoor in-person service as well as being on Zoom and Facebook Live. **(Onsite registration is closed, so please join online.)** Haley serves as a Campus Minister at the Presbyterian Student Center at the University of Georgia. More details and the link to register is on our website.

Tips for Hybrid Worship

- **Monday, May 17, 7 pm Eastern/6 pm Central**
  Hybrid worship engages both individuals attending in-person worship and those who connect virtually. Join us for a conversation about hybrid worship: what should be considered? What things are needed to plan and prepare? This will include some cautionary tales with guiding principles for online safety and accessibility. We'll discuss specific examples of how congregations of various sizes and resources have successfully (or not) incorporated hybrid worship into their ongoing worship experiences. Led by Sam Harrelson who is a marketing and website consultant who partners with nonprofits, churches, public officials, and universities primarily in regards to helping improve their online presence and technologies. He is also an ordained Baptist minister. REGISTER.

Re-Opening of Churches – Conversation for all Church Leaders

- **Monday, May 24, 7 pm Eastern/6 pm Central**
  With more people being vaccinated, the new CDC guidance regarding masks, and churches making plans for in-person worship services, questions are being asked about what current practices need to be maintained into the future. We invite all Moderators, Church Leaders, and Clergy to be part of the conversation. REGISTER

Clergy Zoom Connections for May

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**
  Tuesday, May 18, 25 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central); Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/479440102
- **Live Harp Meditations for Ministers**
  Thursday, May 20 - 12:00 p.m. Eastern (11:00 Central)
  20 minutes of meditation with Celtic harp. Silent prayer and reflection following if desired, facilitated by Rev. Jean Norton. (For questions or to sign up for individual Therapeutic Harp Sessions, contact Jean at HeartSongJean@gmail.com.)
  Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/96976838422
- **Especially for Specialized Ministers**
  Tuesday, May 25, 2021 - 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)
  Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/354744689

Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2021. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

Week of May 16

- Circular Congregational UCC; Charleston, South Carolina
- George Bennett
- Matt Frierdich
- James Norris

- J. Richard Woodward
- Kathi Martin

Week of May 23

- First Congregational Christian UCC; Montgomery Alabama
- Clara Benson
- Diane Tugel
- Stephanie Crumpton
- Nancy E. Dietsch

Week of May 30

- Real Inspiration Ministries; Decatur, Georgia
- Christy Bonner
- Andrew Frierson Jr
- Farrell Duncombe
- Dorothy Gager

Prayer Concerns

- Please hold **Rev. Ellen Sims** (recently retired from Open Table, Mobile, AL and living in Nashville, TN) in prayer. She has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will begin chemotherapy soon.
- Please keep in prayer **Bill Eknes-Tucker** and his husband Rev. Paul (pastor, Pilgrim UCC, Birmingham, AL), as Bill's father who passed away previously is finally going to be buried in Minnesota following the winter moratoriums on opening gravesites.

Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; United Church of Cookeville, Cookeville TN

News from the Wider Church

General Synod Registration Now Open

The Synod registration system is ready to go. United Church of Christ delegates, national and Conference staffs, partners, church members and other visitors are now able to register for the July event. Special Edition General Synod, to be held virtually for the first time ever, takes place July

11-18. Click here to register.

Support new Faith Communities in the Southeast Conference!

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. Nationally, the funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Within the Southeast Conference, this year's dollars will support our new Faith Communities! By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Order resources at no cost: https://www.uccresources.com/products/strengthen-the-church-offering-2021. The offering is often taken on Pentecost: May 23.

Trainings and Conferences

Healthy Boundaries 101 Offered in June

Healthy Boundaries 101 is scheduled for June 4th and 5th. The registration deadline is 25th May 2021. Please visit the Conference website for registration and training details. We look forward to seeing you there.

Healthy Boundaries for Retired Ministers

Retired ministers who do not serve as pastors in a local church, but who would like to preach periodically, officiate at weddings, funerals, etc. now have the option to attend this special Healthy Boundaries Course focused on issues faced by retired ministers. Courses will be offered this summer and in the fall. Watch for more details and registration information.

Conference Calendar

May 16 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm EDT
Ordination of Haley Lerner

May 18 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT
Clergy Conversations via Zoom

May 20 @ 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm EDT
Live Harp Meditations for Ministers

May 20 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT
Commission on Ministry Meeting

May 24 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

Re-Opening of Churches – Conversation for all Church Leaders

May 25 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT
Clergy Conversations via Zoom

May 25 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT
Meet and Greet the Conf. Min. Candidate

June 3 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT
Meet and Greet the Conf. Min. Candidate

June 4 @ 1:45 pm - June 5 @ 12:15 pm EDT
Healthy Boundaries 101: Fundamentals

June 7 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm EDT
Meet and Greet the Conf. Min. Candidate

View the **full calendar** of events online: https://www.secucc.org/events/

Contact Us

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